REMARKS

The amendments to the claims are being made to eliminate multiple dependencies and to reduce the additional claim fees.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached version is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 20-22, 25, 30, 32-37, and 41 have been amended as follows below.

20(Once-amended). A vector comprising the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16-19~~ claim 2.

21(Once-amended). Transformed cells having the nucleotide sequence according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16-19~~ in an expressible state.

22(Once-amended). A process for producing a protein which comprises culturing cells transformed with the nucleotide sequence according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2, 6, 8 and 17~~, and collecting hBSSP6 produced.

25(Once-amended). The process according to ~~any one of claims 22-24~~ claim 22, wherein the cells are *E. coli* cells, animal cells or insect cells.

30(Once-amended). An antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof.

32(Once-amended). A process for producing a monoclonal antibody against the protein according ~~to any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof which comprises administering the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof to a warm-blooded animal other than a human

being, selecting the animal whose antibody titer is recognized, collecting its spleen or lymph node, fusing the antibody producing cells contained therein with myeloma cells to prepare a monoclonal antibody producing hybridoma.

33(Once-amended). A method for determining the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which is based on immunological binding of an antibody against the protein or a fragment thereof to the protein or a fragment thereof.

34(Once-amended). A method for determining BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which comprises reacting a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 7, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof and a labeled antibody with BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in the specimen to detect a sandwich complex produced.

35(Once-amended). A method for determining BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which comprises reacting a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 7, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof with labeled BSSP6 and BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in the specimen competitively to detect an amount of BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in the specimen based on an amount of the labeled BSSP6 reacted with the antibody.

36(Once-amended). The method according to ~~any one of claims 33-35~~ claim 33, wherein the specimen is a body fluid.

37(Once-amended). A diagnostic marker for diseases in tissues comprising the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1, or a fragment thereof.

41(Once-amended). The marker according to claim ~~27~~ 37 to be used for diagnosis of prostatic hypertrophy in prostate.